development of market linkages, processing, packaging etc. Besides, projects for development of marketing infrastructure and marketing linkages are being sanctioned to the States/DRDAs under SGSY Special Projects.

As part of marketing initiatives, the Ministry organizes exhibition and sale of rural products in SARAS pavilion of the India International Trade fare every year. Provision of electricity and electronic services does not come under the purview of the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) While targets have been fixed only under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the budgetary allocation depend on the availability of resorces.

The Ministry has developed a comprehensive multi-level and multi-tool system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the rural development schemes, including utilization of funds.

Reducing poverty in the country

4941. SHRI AIMADUDD&N AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of record food production during the past years, the number of people living Below Poverty Line has not decreased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) action contemplated to address the root causes for the prevailing economic condition of the country ?

THEMIMSTEROF STATE INTHEMMSTRYOFRURALDEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development implements schemes for employment generation, housing, rural connectivity, watershed development, drinking water supply and sanitation in the rural areas of the country.

Production ofintemational grade hybrid Silk

4942. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has been successful to produce international grade hybrid silk;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to patent the new hybrid silk worm varieties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Central Silk Board (CSB) has been successful in evolving bivoltine hybrids capable of yielding international grade silk with the technical assistance of Japan International Co-Operation Agency